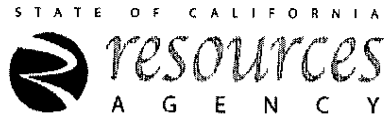


**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
OF A DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE  
SALTON SEA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM**



**California Resources Agency**



**California Department of Water Resources**



**California Department of Fish and Game**

To Responsible and Interested Parties:

The California Department of Water Resources and California Department of Fish and Game, under the direction of the California Resources Agency, has made available for public review and comment the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

### **Project Location**

The study area incorporates the entire Salton Sea watershed, which includes portions of Imperial, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Riverside counties. The Salton Sea lies at the lowest point in the watershed and collects runoff and agricultural drainage from most of Imperial County, much of Riverside County, small portions of San Bernardino and San Diego counties, as well as the northern portion of the Mexicali Valley (Republic of Mexico).

### **Project Description**

The California Legislature, in an amendment to the Fish and Game Code, requires the Secretary for Resources, in consultation with several other organizations, to undertake a Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Study. The amending legislation declares that it is the intent of the Legislature that the State undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of wildlife dependent on that ecosystem. The Salton Sea ecosystem is defined in the legislation to include, but not be limited to, the Salton Sea, agricultural lands surrounding the Salton Sea, and the tributaries and drains within the Imperial and Coachella valleys that deliver water to the Salton Sea. The PEIR identifies the following project objectives:

- Restoration of long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

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The California Resources Agency is the lead agency for preparation of the PEIR and Ecosystem Restoration Study in accordance with the Salton Sea Restoration Act and related legislation, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The PEIR was prepared under the direction of the Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game on behalf of the Resources Agency and the Secretary for Resources.

The purpose of the PEIR is to develop a preferred alternative by exploring alternative ways to restore important ecological functions of the Salton Sea that have existed for about 100 years. To start that discussion, the draft document contains no preferred alternative, allowing one to be selected only after an open public discussion on the document has taken place. The PEIR describes eight alternatives and compares these to existing conditions and two No Action Alternative scenarios. The PEIR compares for each alternative the functions that are protected, their environmental impacts, and costs. Through the public review and comments on the PEIR, and the assistance of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, a preferred restoration alternative will be identified for inclusion into the Final PEIR. A funding plan will then be developed to explore the restoration of critical ecological functions of the Salton Sea.

### **Significant Environmental Impacts**

The PEIR identifies potentially significant impacts to aesthetic and visual resources, climate and air quality, cultural resources, paleontological resources, biological resources, groundwater resources, public services and facilities, noise, geology and soils resources, and land use.

### **Listed Hazardous Sites**

The following potentially hazardous sites are located within the project area: Salton Sea Naval Weapons Test Base, Salton Sea Test Base, Salton Sea Bomb Target, Salton Sea Skip Bomb Target, Proposed Salton Sea Bomb Target, and presumed bombing site.

### **Document Availability**

Copies of the PEIR are available for public inspection and review at the following locations:

<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
Alpine	San Diego County Library, Alpine Branch Library	2130 Arnold Way Alpine, CA 91901
Bermuda Dunes	Department of Fish and Game	78-078 Country Club Drive, Ste 109 Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203
Borrego Springs	San Diego County Library, Borrego Springs Branch Library	571-A Palm Canyon Dr. Borrego Springs, CA 92004
Brawley	Brawley Public Library	400 Main Street Brawley, CA 92227
Calipatria	Imperial County Library, Calipatria Branch	105 S. Lake Calipatria, CA 92233
Calexico	Camarena Memorial Public Library	850 Encinas Ave. Calexico, CA 92231
Cathedral City	Cathedral City Branch Library	33-520 Date Palm Dr. Cathedral City, CA 92234
Carlsbad	Carlsbad City Library, Dove Branch	1775 Dove Lane Carlsbad, CA 92011
Chula Vista	Chula Vista Library, Civic Center Branch	365 F Street Chula Vista, CA 91910

<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Address</b>
Coachella	Coachella Library	1538 Seventh Coachella, CA 92236
Desert Hot Springs	Desert Hot Springs Library	11691 West Drive Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
Desert Shores	Desert Shores Library	801 North Palm Desert Shores, CA 92275
El Cajon	San Diego County Library, El Cajon Branch	201 E. Douglas El Cajon, CA 92020
El Centro	Imperial County Library, El Centro Branch	1125 W Main St El Centro, CA 92243
El Centro	Imperial County Library	1331 S. Clark, Bldg 24 El Centro, CA 92243
Escondido	Escondido Public Library	239 South Kalmia Escondido, CA 92025
Holtville	Holtville Branch Library	101 E. Sixth Holtville, CA 92250
Imperial	Imperial Public Library	200 W. Ninth Street Imperial, CA 92251
Indio	Max T. McCandless Branch Library	200 Civic Center Mall Indio, CA 92201
La Quinta	La Quinta Branch Library	78-225 Calle Tampico La Quinta, CA 92253
Mecca	Mecca-North Shore Branch Library	65-250A Coahuilla Street Mecca, CA 62254
Niland	Niland Public Library	8205 Hwy 111 Niland, CA 92257
Ocotillo	Ocotillo Branch Library	1159 N. Imperial Hwy. Ocotillo, CA 92259
Palm Desert	Palm Desert Library	73-300 Fred Waring Dr. Palm Desert, CA 92260
Palm Springs	Palm Springs Public Library	300 S. Sunrise Way Palm Springs, CA 92262
Rancho Mirage	Rancho Mirage Public Library	71-100 Highway 111 Rancho Mirage, CA 91730
San Diego	San Diego County Central Library	820 E Street San Diego, CA 92101
Sacramento	California State Library	914 Capitol Mall Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento	Department of Water Resources Colorado River & Salton Sea Office	1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6 Sacramento, CA 95814
Salton City	Salton City Library	2098 Frontage Road, Hwy 86 Salton City, CA 92275
Westmorland	Westmorland Branch Library	200 S. C Street Westmorland, CA 92281

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The document may also be viewed at [www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov](http://www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov). A CD containing the PEIR may be requested from: Ramona Malinowski at the California Department of Water Resources at 1416 9th Street, Room 1148-3, Sacramento, California, 95814, or by calling (916) 653-8629; or from Angela Salcedo at the Department of Fish and Game, 78-078 Country Club Drive, Ste 109, Bermuda Dunes, California, 92203, or by calling (760) 200-9158. Documents referenced in the PEIR are available on the internet at [www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov](http://www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov) or at the California Department of Fish and Game, 78-078 Country Club Drive, Ste 109, Bermuda Dunes, California, 92203.

## **Public Workshops**

There will be two series of public workshops within the Salton Sea watershed during the public comment period for the PEIR. The first series will be:

- 14 November 2006, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the La Quinta City Council Chambers; and 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Salton City West Shores Senior Center.
- 15 November 2006, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the IID Board Room in El Centro; and
- 16 November 2006, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Bombay Beach Community Services District

The purpose of the workshops will be to briefly describe the content of the PEIR and answer questions about the document. These are not formal CEQA hearings, and verbal comments on the document will not be taken. Written comments may be left with the person designated to receive them at each workshop or submitted by mail.

## **Public Comment Period**

The comment period for the PEIR begins on October 19, 2006 and closes on January 16, 2007. All comments must be received by 5:00 pm January 16, 2007. Comments may be mailed to Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Salton Sea PEIR Comments, Department of Water Resources, Colorado River & Salton Sea Office, 1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6, Sacramento, California, 95814. They may also be faxed to 916-654-4925 or e-mailed to [SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov](mailto:SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov).